



National Archives and Records Administration

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Record Group 185

Series: Index to the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary Registers, 1979 - 1991

What information is in these records?

This series is a necrology and partial index to the mortuary's registers and contains records of 26,213 U.S. military personnel, employees of the Panama Canal Commission and its predecessors, and Canal Zone civilians processed through the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary between 1906 and 1991. Records in the database include: name, social security number or other unique personal identifier, age, race, nationality, occupation, employer, date of death, place of death, the date the body was received by the mortuary, the person identified as being responsible for the remains, the place of burial, date of cremation, disposition of cremation remains, register entry number, marker, section, row, grave, cost, and remarks.

Why were these records created?

The database was created to serve as an electronic index to the records of individuals processed by the Gorgas Hospital Mortuary.

Does the file contain any errors?

The data file contains some obvious typographical and data entry errors such as misspellings and data from two fields erroneously entered into a single field. Overall, less than 3 percent of the records are affected by these obvious errors.

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